

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /118 W

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R 071523Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 062

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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BEIRUT FOR CLEW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NI, IV

SUBJECT: NIGERIA AND IVORY COAST TALK OIL

REFS: (A) ABIDJAN 1884 OF MARCH 5

(B) LAGOS 2724 OF MARCH 21

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(C) FREETOWN 0995 OF MAY 13

(D) INR INTELLIGENCE NOTE 103 OF MAY 20

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. VISIT OF IVORY COAST FONMIN USHER (SEPTTEL NOTAL) FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF FOUR-MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY SECSTATE OF MINES PAUL GUI DIBO WHICH WAS HERE JUNE 23-27 "TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF CURDE OIL FROM THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT." ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE, GUI DIBO'S CONTACTS WITH NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR MINES AND POWER MONGUNO WERE "IN PURSUANCE OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN ... GOWON AND ... HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF ECOWAS THAT THE IVORY COAST WOULD BUY NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL." GUI DIBO WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS HAVING SAID THAT IVORY COAST WOULD ASSIST NIGERIA BY REFINING CRUDE OIL IN THE ABIDJAN REFINERY AND THEN EXPORTING THE PRODUCTS TO NIGERIA. USHER TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULD FURTHER EXPLORE ABIDJAN'S INTEREST IN PURCHASING NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH FMG OFFICIALS.

END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. COMMENT: SINCE THE OIL TALKS RESULT FROM THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN GOWON AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY (LAGOS -5140), THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT BASED ON ANYTHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN A PERSONAL AGREEMENT OF THE TWO HEADS OF STATE TO HAVE THEIR SUBORDINATES WORK OUT WHAT, TO THEM, SEEMED TO BE AN OBVIOUS BASIS FOR MUTUAL ADVANTAGES: FMG IS TRYING TO FIND BUYERS FOR ITS OWN CRUDE OIL AND HAS TO IMPORT PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. IVORY COAST (AS GUI DIBO POINTED OUT) IS ALREADY BUYING NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL COMPANIES AND HAS SURPLUS REFINING CAPACITY. SOME KIND OF SWAP SOUNDS SIMPLE, BUT (SINCE IT INVOLVES PRICES, SHIPPING, INDEPENDENT MARKETING COMPANIES IN NIGERIA, AND GOIC'S EQUITY PARTNERS IN THE ABIDJAN REFINERY) IT IS PROBABLY VERY COMPLICATED, AND IT CERTAINLY REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS' "EXPERTS" CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. DESPITE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS (E.G. REFS C AND D), THE FMG IS NOT YET KNOWN TO HAVE COMPLETED A "SPECIAL" OIL DEAL WITH ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT, AFRICAN OR OTHERWISE.
EASUM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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